Alterations Alleged In Nixon Home Data

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 31—The chairman of a Congressional panel investigating public spending on President Nixon's private homes said today that some documents pertaining to Mr. Nixon's property at San Clemente, Calif., released earlier this week by the White House, had been altered [illegible] ously.

Representative [illegible] Democrat of [illegible] chairman of the [illegible] ment Activities [illegible] said that three [illegible] containing a legal [illegible] of 25 acres of San [illegible] property, sold by the [illegible]

Continued on Page [illegible]

Continued From Page [illegible]

to two of his [illegible] were erased and changed [illegible] veying company [illegible] orders from Mr. Nixon's [illegible] sonal attorney.

A White House spokesman, Gerald L. Warren, [illegible] San Clemente [illegible] Mr. Brooks was making [illegible] about nothing." [illegible] issued a letter [illegible] Harlow, Presidential counselor, to Mr. Brooks that, he said, shows that "there is nothing whatever improper or irregular about the transaction."

At a news conference on Capitol Hill today, Mr. Brooks said that he had written to Mr. Harlow asking for an explanation of "inconsistencies and inaccuracies" in some of the documents on San Clemente released by the White House. Mr. Brooks emphasized that he was making "no charge or accusation."

In his news conference, however, Mr. Brooks raised questions about a sales agreement dated Dec. 15, 1970, between President and Mrs. Nixon and Robert H. Abplanalp and C. G. Rebozo, two wealthy friends who helped finance the President's purchase of San Clemente and to whom the President sold a large part of the property.

Specifically, Mr. Brooks questioned the dating on attachments to the sales agreement that contained the legal description of the parcels of property reserved to the President and those transferred to the B. & C. Investment Company, the company organized by Mr. Abplanalp and Mr. Rebozo.

Erasure Alleged

His staff discovered, Mr. Brooks reported, that the surveying company, the South Coastal Engineering Services Corporation, had on Jan. [illegible] 1971, erased the original date on the attachments and substituted the Dec. 15 date. The change was made at the behest of Frank DeMarco Jr., one of Mr. Nixon's lawyers, Mr. Brooks said.

He said that Mr. DeMarco had insisted, when asked, that no change had been made on the documents. Mr. DeMarco would not respond to a newsman's question.

However, one of the owners of the survey concern, William Ager, confirmed when reached today that the change had been made on the documents at Mr. DeMarco's request.

Mr. Brooks said that records in the possession of his committee [illegible] that the de[illegible] of the property were [illegible] prepared until [illegible] 1970, and [illegible] in [illegible] sales agreement were [illegible] on [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] interested [illegible] date of the [illegible] because [illegible] who owned the property [illegible] the Government [illegible] for improvements on it in the name of Presidential security. "We need to know who did what, when," he said.

The House committee has been conducting an intensive investigation into the expenditure of public funds for security at the President's private residences in Key Biscayne, Fla., and San Clemente and is scheduled to hold hearings on the issue in late September or early October.

So far it has been disclosed that governmental agencies have spent about $10-million on Presidential security and safety at the various Nixon properties.

On Monday, the White House released a special audit on the President's purchase of the $1.5-million estate at San Clemente and the $[illegible] Key Biscayne properties in order, according to a spokesman, "to put to rest once and for all the false allegations" about how Mr. Nixon acquired the properties.

In his reply to Mr. Brooks, Mr. Harlow said that "there was no basis for perceiving inconsistencies" in the documents questioned by Mr. Brooks and that there was no relevance between those documents and Government spending on Presidential security at San Clemente.

Mr. Harlow explained the altered dates by saying that the descriptions of the property had contained an error and had to be changed. But he asserted that the date of these descriptions was "irrelevant to the effective date of the sales agreement."

In fact, he wrote, "the sales agreement was prepared and executed before Dec. 15, 1970." As to the date of the actual transaction, "there was no significance to the date or even the year," Mr. Harlow wrote.

As evidence that the date of the transfer is immaterial to Government spending on security, Mr. Harlow said that the main gate of San Clemente is on property sold by Mr. Nixon but the gate is still operated by the Secret Service.

NYTimes SEP [illegible]

Acquittal in Gainesville

The swift acquittal by a Florida jury of the Gainesville 8, accused of conspiring to disrupt the Republican National Convention, is another deserved rebuke for the Administration in its effort to prosecute antiwar activists by infiltrating their ranks with undercover agents and provocateurs.

As in the cases of the so-called Harrisburg 7 and the Camden 28, the Jsutice Department relied heavily on the testimony of paid informers whose credibility faded under cross-examination. Charges that the indicted members of Vietnam Veterans Against War had plotted to attack police stations, police cars and stores with "fire teams" using automatic weapons and incendiary devices came down to courtroom admissions by Government witnesses that the only weapon they had ever seen as figuring in plans to molest Miami Beach during the convention was a slingshot.

Particularly disturbing were repeated indications at the trial that the people the Government had planted inside the antiwar group sought to incite violence of precisely the kind the Government was professedly trying to stop. One undercover agent even offered to help the V.V.A.W. buy machine guns.

The testimony along that line, already made familiar by the use of similar tactics in actions against other war protesters, paralleled evidence in the Watergate investigation that E. Howard Hunt Jr., a White House master "plumber," had attempted to "embarrass the Democrats" by hiring infiltrators to cause trouble among antiwar demonstrators at the 1972 Presidential convention in Miami Beach. The Watergate parallel in the Gainesville proceedings was made stronger when two F.B.I. agents loaded with electronic equipment were discovered in a small telephone terminal room adjacent to the defense lawyers' conference room.

The trial of the Gainesville 8 was another sordid example of abuse of the legal system by an Administration that seems more intent on making political capital out of intimidating its critics than it is in enforcing the laws for the sake of order. In the wake of the Watergate exposures and the winding down of the Indochina war, we trust this trial will be the last such abuses of Governmental power.